

Letter from Philip Mauro to Alexander Graham Bell, March 11, 1904

PHILIP MAURO. PHILIP MAURO, Cable Address: S. T. CAMERON. Counsellor at Law, "Mauro—Washington" REEVE LEWIS. "Phimauro—New York" C. A. L. MASSIE. OFFICES: 620 F STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C. (LIEBERS STANDARD CODE) 277 BROADWAY, NEW YORK. TELEPHONE: Washington, East 874 New York, 3298 Franklin ("BROADWAY CHAMBERS.") NEW YORK, March 11, 1904. Alexander Graham Bell, Esq., 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Bell:—

I am very much interested in a proposition which has been discussed between Prof. McGee and the Vice-President the American Graphophone Company, with reference to the inauguration of an historical graphophonic collection to be preserved either in the National Museum or in the Congressional Library. It is proposed to make the St. Louis Exposition the occasion of the inauguration of this national project, and I am sure you will see almost at a glance how important it is, and how worthy of being started in the best way.

One of the leading features of the A. G. Co's exhibit at St. Louis will be an indestructible sound-record, which up to this time has not been shown publicly. By "indestructible," I mean one that should survive the ravages of time, and last for thousands of years. In addition to this quality of permanence, these new records are far ahead of any of their predecessors in accuracy and naturalness of tone.

It seems to me a thought that ought to take practical shape, to begin a national collection which should include at least our President, Cabinet Officers, Speaker of the House, and Justices of the Supreme Court.

Library of Congress

I write you on this subject because I know it is one in which you have very deep interest, and undoubtedly you will see ways in which the object proposed can be promoted and put in the best shape.

The President of the American Graphophone Co. has written a letter on this subject to Prof. McGee, dated the 8th inst., and you will doubtless hear from the latter regarding it.

Yours sincerely, Dict.P.M. Philip Mauro